The Urban Sanitary District of Sandwich.
Annual Report Year 1908.

13th February 1909.

Gentlemen.

As Medical Officer of Health for this Urban District I now hand you this Annual Report for the year ending. 31st December 1908.
The area of this District is reckoned as 756 acres and the population 3170— this I consider a fair average on which to base the statistics required on these occasions.

The population is distributed amongst four Parishes (which comprise the District.) as follows St Peters 1088. St Marys 1092. St Clement 956. St Bartholemews 34.

The Registrars Report shows a total of 35 deaths during the twelve months. Nine of these being in the Parish of St Peters eleven in St Clements, fourteen in St Marys and one in St Bartholemews—
In points of time 12 were in the first quarter of the year. 5 in the second. 9 in the third and 9 in the last.
The first quarter (as it frequently is) being the most fatal and the second the least.
The causes of two deaths were the subject of enquiry— one being returned as Accidental the other affording no proof to distinguish between accident or design.— Eliminating these two cases as I have usually done we have left 33 deaths due to age or disease during the year 1908

This number yields a deathrate of 10.40 per thousand, a very satisfactory record as has been the case during the past four years when the rate has been the same with the exception of the year 1906 when there were 34 deaths only, as will be seen in the following quinquennial summary.

1904. — 40 deaths.
1905. — 35
1906. — 34
1907 — 35
1908 — 35

The number of births during the year was 67 (26 male 41 female) 5 of these were illegitimate. The total number is an improvement and practically a return to our normal birthrate which was considerably lowered last year (1907) when only 48 births were registered.

The following table shows the number during the past 5 years

1904. 70.
1905. 58.
1906. 60.
1907. 48.
1908 67.

The Summary of the Registrar of Deaths report is as follows

Phthisis & other tubercular diseases	2
Cancer	1
Pneumonia	4
Brights disease	1
Bronchitis	4
Cerebral Haemorrhage	3
Heart	4
Duodenal Ulcer	1
Paralysis of Insane	1
Hydrocephalus	2
Epilepsy	1
Age	4
Diarrhoea	1
Scarlet Fever	1
Accident	2
Premature birth	2
Measles &c	1
	35

Twenty one of these deaths either occurred within the first twelve months of life or in those over 65 years of age – viz 5 under 1 year 16 over 65 – three only of these were over 80 years of age. the oldest being a man of 83, apparently then the year 1908 has not proved a fatal one to the aged as we have several nonogenarians in the Boro,' Heart disease caused 4 deaths as in the last year. Cancer 1 as compared with 4 in 1907. Tubercular disease 2 Respiratory Diseases proved the most fatal causing 8 deaths 4 been due to Bronchitis & 4 Pneumonia

One death was primarily due to measles and one to Scarlet Fever.
Five children died under twelve months of age. 2 from premature birth (living four or 5 hours only) 2 from Hydrocephalus and one from Pneumonia.

The number of notifications received under the Infectious Diseases Act was 7. Six of these being Scarlet Fever and one Enteric.
this compares favourably with 1907 when 15 notifications were received; also with other years as will be seen by the following

1904.	10
1905	9
1906	6
1907	15
1908	7

There has therefore been very little Zymotic disease and the first time for several years not a single case of Diphtheria has been present and altho Scarlet Fever appeared on three different occasions in the months of January July & October it was localised and limited by the means employed. Isolation in 3 cases at home and in 3 other cases at the Isolation Hospital in Eastry – Since October the Town has been quite free from it
The first two cases were in January in children living in Paradise Row – there was no means

of proving how the first case originated but the second child was evidently infected by the first. About July three other children manifested the disease – they had all been attending the same school (private) this was immediately closed. The books & papers destroyed. The Schoolroom was fumigated and not being suitable from a hygienic point of view has not since been used for school purposes.

The last case appeared in October in a child who had not been to school or away from the Town or to a Hop Garden, where children meet and which has frequently proved to be a means of infection. Inspection and enquiry could elicit no probable cause. The man who suffered from Enteric Fever probably became infected outside the Town where his employment was, his occupation was that of a Gardener but he also had the care of pigs & goats and said that one of the latter had been recently ill.

enquiry at this means house revealed nothing to account for disease, but it was found that the house refuse, closet contents &c were not removed sufficiently often in this Row (Paradise) where there were families and that the weekly instead of fortnightly visit was advisable altho in several cases not absolutely necessary and on this account the more frequent visit had been objected to by several of the householders. In connection with this case of Enteric it might be noted tho' perhaps merely a coincidence – that a

Similar case of Enteric occurred last year at about the same time, in a man whose employment also was to look after cattle – but in quite a different part of the Town.

In the month of February Influenza became rather prevalent chiefly in a mild Catarrhal form In December measles appeared having extended from the adjacent neighbourhood of Minster where it was present, On 7th December being aware of the existence of a few cases and finding a some what sudden diminution of the attendance at the Infant School (The weather being also inclement) I advised that the Board Schools should be closed for the remainder of the Term hoping to minimise the proportions of a probable Epidemic and the reopening was also deferred until the 18th January chiefly on account of the difficulty or impossibility of ascertaining whether children came from infected households or not, many not having been medically attended: one death however is reported as due to this complaint I should perhaps mention that the Local Government Bd and other Authorities were duly communicated with when it became necessary to close the Schools and although this was done at an early period when there were but few cases the disease assumed moderate proportions of an Epidemic character but had apparently died out by the 18th January.

The weekly returns of Notifiable Diseases have been regularly sent and received from London during the Year and at the present time

a copy is being sent to the County Medical Officer at Maidstone.

Nine complaints were received and investigated during the year by the Sanitary Inspector and myself - three being due to stopped & faulty drains, one to Pigs being kept in an unclean condition one to a house being left in a filthy state, another to an ash pit & rubbish heap becoming offensive and the last to a Fowl house & run being kept in a bad condition giving rise to [redacted] annoyance and nuisance to a neighbour whose windows opened above - all these complaints were seen to and remedied by the Sanitary Inspector without further action being necessary - he also reports that the House to House inspection shows general improvement.

The main sewers appear to work wonderfully well but as each year they become more taxed by fresh connections constantly being made, especially since the more general introduction of W. C,s a new sewerage scheme & system becomes more and more necessary to meet the present conditions and should be pushed forward at the earliest moment the financial state of the Town will permit. The Slaughter houses were better kept and except in one case where the offal was allowed to remain too long before being removed there has been no cause of complaint.

The number of Bake houses in the Town is 8 they are regularly visited and inspected, three of these were in very good condition (one being quite new) & are entered as quite good and another as fair

There are 4 Dairies within the Boro' but owing to the death of the owner one was closed for a portion of the year but will be opened shortly by a fresh Tenant under improved conditions — there are also 4 Cowsheds and 3 Retail Milk Shops which are duly registered and reported upon by the Inspector as being in a satisfactory condition. I in common with M. O. H.s elsewhere regret that it is not made compulsory in this District to notify Tubercular Cows, thereby making it less possible for our supply of milk to be contaminated by this means.

The quality of Water from the Reservoirs has been good as evidenced by results on two occasions by the Public Analysts — During the year steps have been taken to increase the supply, a second Well has been sunk and a new Reservoir is to be built which will be practically double the storage capacity. The machinery has also been reduplicated and by these means a supply to meet all requirements will be produced in about 6 or 7 hours and thus obviate the necessity of working the whole 24 hours as has hitherto been done.

I remain Sir
Your obed Servant
John W. Stevenson.
M. O. H

To The Port Sanitary Authority Sandwich.

1st Feby 1909.

Annual Report for year 1908.

Gentlemen

The number of Local or Coasting vessels entering the Port during the year was 162 carrying general cargoes & bringing Coal from the North – 13 ships also arrived from Foreign Ports with the exception of one Dutch and one German all were British — twelve brought Cargoes of Granite from Alderney Newport, Rotterdam, Bruges & Antwerp one brought Cake from Harburg this was a German vessel – all the ships from Foreign Ports were inspected on arrival there has been no sickness on board any of them and the Inspectors Report states that he has not found it necessary during the year to make any complaints as regards any of these vessels. Unfortunately one fatal accident occurred in December during the severe weather when an Engineer fell from a plank into the River and died from shock – altho gallantly rescued from drowning by a Marine.

I remain Gentn

Your Obedt Servant.

A. Harrison.

P. M. O